

Alabama's

**Impaired
Drivers
Trust
Fund**



*the key to
enabling Alabamians with traumatic
brain injury or spinal cord injury to
achieve their maximum level
of independence*

ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

Prepared by:
**Alabama Department
of Rehabilitation
Services**

**Lamona H. Lucas
Commissioner**



DON SIEGELMAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA IMPAIRED DRIVERS TRUST FUND

Serving People With Brain or Spinal Cord Injury



Administered by:
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
REHABILITATION SERVICES

Advisory Board

Ralph R. Norman, III
Chairman
Alabama Department of Insurance

Sandra Nicholson
Vice Chairman
Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Mike Murphy
Secretary
Alabama Department
of Human Resources

Terrence E. Brown
Alabama Hospital Association

Tim Cain
Alabama Coalition
of Citizens with Disabilities

Russ Fine, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.
UAB Injury Control Research Center

Bill Fuller
Alabama House of Representatives

Stann Garriss
Epilepsy Foundation
of North & Central Alabama

Senator Doug Ghee
Alabama State Senate

Joan B. Hannah, Ed.D.
Developmental Disabilities
Planning Council

Jack Hataway, M.D.
Alabama Department of Public Health

Terry Longest
Alabama Department of Education
Special Education Services

Lamona H. Lucas
Alabama Head Injury Task Force

P. Caudill Miller, M.D.
Medical Association of Alabama

O'Neill Pollingue
Alabama Department of Mental
Health and Mental Retardation

Graham Sisson
The Governor's Office

Sylvester Smith
Department of Human Resources

March 2, 1999

LAMONA H. LUCAS
COMMISSIONER

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board, we are pleased to present the annual report of the activities and accomplishments for 1998. This report tells stories of individuals with traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury who have realized their dreams and accomplished their goals. Their successes would not have been possible without assistance from the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund.

The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Board remains committed to maximum use of existing resources to fill the gaps in services for people with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury. The Board has worked throughout the year with service providers to ensure that this outcome is achieved.

We believe the continuum of care and quality of life for people with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury have been improved by services provided through the Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund.

Sincerely,

Lamona H. Lucas
Commissioner
Alabama Department of
Rehabilitation Services

Ralph R. Norman, III
Chairman
Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust
Fund Advisory Board

IMPAIRED DRIVERS TRUST FUND

In 1992 the Alabama State Legislature established the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund (IDTF) in the state treasury and the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board (Act 92-586). Since that time, the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund has evolved into a major advocacy and service-delivery system for Alabamians who have spinal cord injury (SCI) or traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The Legislature charged the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board with the responsibility of facilitating a comprehensive system of services for Alabamians with head and spinal cord injuries:

- investigating the needs of survivors with SCI or TBI,
- identifying gaps in services to these survivors,
- establishing guidelines for disbursing IDTF monies, and
- assuring maximum benefits from the IDTF.

The Board established five committees to address long- and short-term developmental issues:

- **Rules Committee** - considers and proposes to the Board amendments to the administrative rules of the IDTF
- **Budget Committee** - develops and submits to the Board financial reports and budgets
- **RFP Committee** - develops requests for proposals, considers any proposals submitted and makes recommendations to the Board
- **Housing Committee** - considers proposals submitted pursuant to the Board's housing initiative and approves disbursement of funds under any housing initiative
- **Legislative Committee** - considers and advises the Board on any proposed legislative issues that impact services or consumers of the IDTF programs.

In 1993 the Legislature passed ACT 93-323 which imposed an additional fine of \$100 on persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, with proceeds from the fines allocated to the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund.

Funds credited to the IDTF are to be used as payer of last resort for the costs of care provided to Alabamians who have survived neurotrauma with head or spinal cord injuries.

In January 1994 the IDTF Advisory Board issued a report to the Alabama Legislature providing results of a needs assessment and identifying gaps in services to citizens with head or spinal cord injuries. Consequently, six public hearings were held throughout the state to obtain citizens' input in identifying priorities and needs. As a result of these hearings, the IDTF Advisory Board established priorities and criteria for disbursement of monies in the fund.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services was designated by the Legislature to disperse monies from the IDTF in accordance with the priorities and criteria established by the Board. The Advisory Board, IDTF committees and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services staff established systems and procedures to deliver services.

* * *

Alabamians who are convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs pay for services to individuals with spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

Service Components

The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund provides funding to implement the service components identified to address gaps in services to people with spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury. These components include:

- *The Alabama Head Injury Foundation Helpline* - a toll-free telephone line to provide immediate information to callers
- *Resource coordination* - helps consumers and their families find and implement the coordinated, community-based assistance they need
- *The Interactive Community-Based Model (ICBM)* - a five phase rehabilitation program that focuses on the consumer's transition from the hospital to home to the community and ultimately to the workplace
- *Housing assistance* - help in processing applications for housing assistance and in implementing approved services for obtaining housing
- *Personal assistance through the State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Service* - provides support the family needs to maintain as independent a lifestyle as possible
- *Extended support* - provides a source of funding for extended job-related support services needed to maintain employment
- *Respite care* - services provided to intervene and relieve families of round-the clock-responsibilities of caring for a consumer
- *Recreation* - provides opportunities for individuals with TBI or SCI to enjoy recreational activities, including attending camp



Service Components

Prevocational Service-Delivery Model:

Interactive Community-Based Model (ICBM)

Traumatic brain injury has far-reaching consequences not only for the individual, family and friends, but also for employers of people with head injuries. Most adults who survive severe head injury must re-evaluate their employment abilities, potential and goals.

The ICBM, originally funded in 1992 by a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, was developed to help Alabamians with traumatic brain injury access community resources to enhance their opportunities to work. It is a comprehensive rehabilitation program that focuses on the client's transition from hospital to home to community and ultimately to the workplace. The gradual, often slow, process begins at home where ICBM care coordinators guide the patient and family through a five-phase process of rehabilitation.

The ICBM has reduced the cost of post-acute care services for survivors of TBI and has reduced the time of referral to vocational rehabilitation by more than two-thirds of the national average. In addition, the average income of consumers who participate in the ICBM is 15 percent higher than those who do not.

The ICBM is now funded by the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund because of its success in assisting individuals in returning to maximum independence, enabling them to function in their community and in employment.

Services available through ICBM include:

- * Case management
- * TBI education
- * Community re-entry
- * Neuropsychological evaluation
- * Transportation
- * Home exercise program
- * Cognitive remediation
- * Job coaching/job trial
- * Vocational rehabilitation

Service Components

The ICBM: a great example of teamwork

All of my dream have come true!" said Tara Stiefels who has always dreamed of being a fitness instructor. Now she is working at a health club.

It has been an exciting and challenging four years as Tara has fought to regain her independence after sustaining a traumatic brain injury. The ordeal has been a physical and cognitive battle—Tara had to relearn to eat, talk, walk and tie her shoes again. "I was a baby at age 20. It was a very difficult time," said Tara.

Injured in a serious car accident about four years ago, Tara crashed through the windshield and rolled in busy traffic. She was left with a traumatic brain injury, broken jaw, crushed pelvis and missing teeth. Tara has since undergone numerous plastic surgeries to completely reconstruct her shattered face.

Tara is an attractive girl with a warm and friendly personality. She has always had an active lifestyle and has been physically fit. In high school Tara was a cheerleader and cheerleader instructor and was involved in many activities. After Tara's accident she said, "My number one goal is to become active and in shape once again. I love to exercise."

For Tara to become active again she had to fight an uphill battle, but she fought and won. Currently, she is a fitness instructor

at a health club in North Alabama and is studying to become certified. TBI care coordinator Nadine Dunn is working with Tara to offer assistance and accommodations when she takes the test for certification.

Determined to achieve a certain level of personal fitness, Tara exercises two hours a day at the gym and does about 150-200 sit-ups per day.

"My enjoyment comes from going to church, visiting with friends and working out," said Tara. "Working out is my life." The primary ICBM service that Tara received was

care coordination, as Tara had excellent insurance. She and her family were provided information, education, support, encouragement, counseling and guidance throughout the ICBM process. Working with Vocational Rehabilitation Service counselor Kenny Maness, Tara successfully completed a driving test for her license.

The care coordinator assisted Tara and her mother in preparing an outline for a presentation at Barry College in Rome, Ga. where Tara was to be a keynote speaker for a

Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Tara has since made numerous presentations at churches and will be making SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) presentations at local high schools in Dekalb and Jackson counties in 1999. She has been interviewed by a free-lance writer for a possible article in *Readers Digest*.

Recently, Tara obtained a volunteer position as a teachers aide at a new state of the art elementary school in Fort Payne. She loves her new job of helping second graders, and they love her. She helps Mexican-American children read in English and helps children on the computer and with their class work.

"Working out is my life."



Service Components

People Helping People

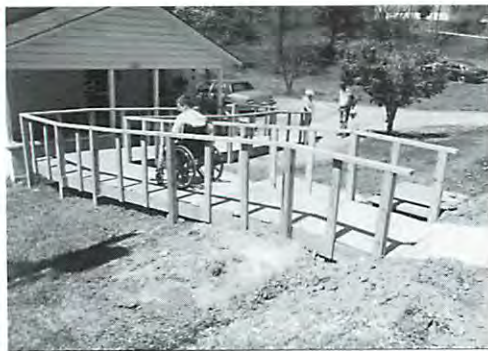
TBI consumer Marvin Glenn was working on a volunteer church project with his father installing a wheelchair ramp at a young man's home when he discovered something interesting. He and the young man had a common bond—both had a TBI.

"I was so happy to help someone because so many people helped me when I couldn't walk and I needed help," he said.

With the assistance available through the ICBM, Marvin has progressed and enjoys doing physical labor, gardening, and other activities, including attending camp. ICBM services/technology extended to Marvin included medical and hearing exams, a hearing aid exam and hearing aids, speech evaluation, and an augmentative communication system which he no longer needs. He participated in an Augmentative Communication Technology clinic and received care coordination services. Later he became involved with Vocational Rehabilitation and received services through VR.

* * *

Justin Towell, left with a TBI and numerous orthopedic difficulties as a result of an automobile accident in 1995, was in desperate need of a ramp built at his home. It was difficult for his mother to maneuver his wheelchair to the car on their bumpy drive, and she could not get him to the school bus everyday. Since the ramp has been constructed, Justin enjoys the independence of getting on and off



the bus, and he can practice walking by holding to the rail for assistance.

Justin became an ICBM consumer in 1997 and was also

served by SAIL (State of Alabama Independent Living) Service. Currently, Justin is served by Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS) and the ICBM.

ICBM services included care coordination services in providing information, education, support, encouragement, counseling, guidance, locating resources and obtaining services such as neuropsychological and medical evaluations, an eye exam and glasses, assistive devices, physical evaluation and patient education. TBI care coordinator Nadine Dunn obtained assistance from the City of Gadsden to pay for the extended ramp from the road to the front porch of Justin's home. The ramp was built by TBI consumer Marvin Glenn and his father.

"It was an inspirational experience for parents and participants to see Marvin helping and for Justin to understand that Marvin had



Melvin and Justin on newly built ramp.

once been in a similar situation," said Nadine.

Justin has made remarkable progress within the last year. After experiencing behavioral problems resulting in a suspension from school, the TBI care coordinator and VR counselor participated in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting. Justin is now being considered for regular classroom activities. He continues to receive occupational therapy to reduce the contractures in his hand and he wears a brace at night, as he does not want to appear disabled at school. He has progressed from a wheelchair to walking with difficulty with a cane.

Now the 19 year-old wants to seek employment. A VR transition counselor will meet with him about involvement in the local rehabilitation center and possible employment. Justin may be able to work with supportive employment or in a sheltered environment.

* * *

**Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
Vocational Rehabilitation TBI Care Coordinators
Areas and Counties Served**

AREA I

Jan Humphries

621 Cherry Street, NE

Decatur, AL 35602

(256) 353-2754

1-800-671-6838

Fax: (256) 351-2476

Counties Served: Colbert,
Cullman, Franklin, Jackson,
Lauderdale, Lawrence,
Limestone, Madison, Morgan

AREA II

Leigh Ann Walker

236 Goodwin Crest Drive

Birmingham, AL 35219

(205) 290-4444

1-800-671-6837

Fax: (205) 290-0486

Counties Served: Blount, Chilton,
Jefferson, Shelby

AREA III

Rena Kiel

1305 37th Street, East

Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

(205) 554-1355

1-800-441-7597

Fax: (205) 554-1369

Counties Served: Bibb, Fayette,
Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo,
Marion, Perry, Pickens, Sumter,
Tuscaloosa, Walker, Winston

AREA IV

Karen Wisenbaker

2127 East South Boulevard

Montgomery, AL 36116

(334) 288-0220

1-800-441-7578

Fax: (334) 281-1388

Counties Served: Autauga, Barbour,
Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Coffee,
Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale,
Dallas, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston,
Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, Russell,
Tallapoosa, Wilcox

AREA V

Nadine Dunn

1100 George Wallace Drive

Gadsden, AL 35903

(256) 547-6974

1-800-671-6839

Fax: (256) 543-1784

Counties Served: Calhoun, Cherokee,
Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, DeKalb, Etowah, Marshall,
Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega

AREA VI

Ron Haynes

2419 Gordon Smith Drive

Mobile, AL 36617

(334) 450-6366

1-888-923-4745

Fax: (334) 471-6018

Counties Served: Baldwin, Choctaw,
Clark, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe,
Washington

Service Components

Assistance for funding of accessibility and structural modifications through the

IDTF Housing Assistance Program

Rarely are homes designed with consideration given to:

- * Longer life spans of adults
- * Temporary loss of mobility due to an accident or medical disorder
- * Long-term physical challenges resulting from traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury

Following a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, extensive and costly renovations are often required to make the existing home accessible. The astronomical medical expenses tend to drain the consumer and family of resources necessary to make accessibility modifications to their home.

The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund has developed a direct response to the need for funding of accessibility and structural modifications to the homes of people with traumatic brain injury and/or spinal cord injury. Through the Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF), the consumers with accessibility and structural issues are identified. Upon verification of a consumer's needs for financial assistance, applications are prepared and submitted to the AHIF housing coordinator. Subsequent to a review of existing conditions and preparation of a cost estimate for the modifications, the housing coordinator

presents each application for housing assistance to the IDTF Housing Committee for review, approval and funding. The AHIF is then responsible for coordination of the project to completion.

July 16, 1996 is a date Gregory Philpot and his family will never forget. That day an accident occurred that will impact Gregory's life forever. The 27-year-old husband and father of two young children was involved in a motor vehicle crash which left him with a spinal cord injury and paralysis from the neck down. For over two years Gregory had access to his living room only. The living room ultimately became his bedroom, dining room and bathroom. He had no privacy and was often embarrassed by direct exposure to visitors in his home. Funds from the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund

Housing Assistance Program were used to add an accessible bedroom, ramp and landing for Gregory.

Now Gregory is able to enjoy the privacy of his own bedroom and easy access to the living room, kitchen, and outdoors. His room has ample space for his furniture, wheelchair, equipment and his mobility. Insulated glass windows allow natural light, ventilation and excellent views of the wooded area behind his trailer. A pair of three-foot-wide (double) doors assure ease in exiting from the bedroom to the outside by wheelchair or bed.



* * *

Service Components

AHIF Resource Coordinators and the AHIF Helpline

Resource Coordination

A traumatic brain injury or a spinal cord injury can happen to anyone at any time. Because of the wide range of services and treatment options that Alabamians with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury may require, service coordination is critical. Across Alabama over 1,000 individuals with TBI or SCI and their families have been served by the Alabama Head Injury Foundation through funding from the Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund. The IDTF established a *family service coordination program* through *family service centers*, now located in 10 areas across the state, to help patients and their families find the coordinated, community-based assistance they need. *Resource coordinators* located at the centers provide community information, referrals, advocacy, housing, respite care, support group development and public awareness activities.

AHIF Resource Coordinators:

Who are they and what do they do?

Calls such as the ones in the box to the right are often made to the *AHIF Helpline* or to one of 10 local *resource coordinators* strategically located across the state, serving every county in Alabama. These coordinators provide educational materials or information about available resources and can make referrals to local support groups for peer support and social activities. They continuously strive to build community awareness and understanding of TBI/SCI and the resulting challenges.

Resource coordination is available to individuals who have received a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury and who meet the eligibility requirements of the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund.

AHIF resource coordinators are knowledgeable about local resources and collaborate with

colleagues in local social service agencies, state agencies, churches and schools to ensure the most comprehensive, coordinated system of services for the consumer and family. The coordinator is specifically trained in management of TBI and SCI cases and understands the challenges that these disabilities create for consumers and families.

In most cases, the resource coordinator meets the client/family in the home setting and makes sure they understand the disability and its far-reaching impact and helps them to focus on their needs and set realistic goals to meet those needs. Together, they decide the actions required to achieve the goals.

For instance, obtaining financial assistance for medication may be one goal set by a client who has been unable to buy medications on a

- * *"How can I pay for my medication?"*
- * *"My son can't remain at home! His behavior is disrupting our family!"*
- * *"I feel so alone...my friends have abandoned me!"*
- * *"It's the end of the month and I'm out of money. I can't buy groceries!"*
- * *"I have an old wheelchair that I can't repair."*

limited SSDI income. The coordinator may be aware of resources that will assist in funding medication or may encourage self-advocacy by suggesting that the client ask the doctor if free samples are available.

AHIF resource coordinators are also knowledgeable about entitlements such as SSI, SSDI, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, etc. They are familiar with state agencies such as the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services as well as local school systems and can assist consumers and families in understanding eligibility and procedures, in applying for benefits and assistance, and in following through after application.

Service Components

"A whole new world has opened up to me, and exploring it is one of the greatest ventures I have had since I broke my neck. Twenty years is a long time to feel unproductive; however, now things seem to be different. This is the first letter I have written since my injury. I am also thinking about taking classes on computing and increasing my skills in this arena. I feel, given time and a little more knowledge, I can compete with anyone in this field. There is no end to what I can do or what I can learn.

"...depression was about to overcome my life. So much for depression, I simply don't have time for that anymore. There's too much to do, and places to go via the Internet. My computer also allows me to communicate with my family and friends on my own terms. Unless someone has been confined to a wheelchair or in the throws of any other disability, they could not possibly know what it means to have this independence. I hope that in the future other individuals are able to take advantage of this program so they, too, can appreciate the freedom I feel.

"The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund is one of the greatest tools Alabama has to offer someone in my condition and situation. I pray that this program continues to help people in this manner, and God bless all the people who may have very possibly saved my life."

Philip Hundley

The above letter is the work of Philip Hundley, now 42 years old, who was struck by an automobile at the age of 21. Left with a C5 spinal cord injury, Philip experiences intermittent health problems that prevent him from getting out of his home for extended periods of time.

Philip had been injured seventeen years when direct services were first funded by IDTF. In 1997 Philip sought these services through the AHIF resource coordinator, Roberta Jackel, who served the Auburn area. Philip identified his need for a computer to provide a consistent link to the outside world. He described feelings of isolation and bouts of depression.

When recreation funds became available in FY '98, Roberta encouraged Philip to research the type of



computer that best suited his needs and to apply for funding to realize his goal. Philip spent each day comparison shopping by phone and in person. He checked back with Roberta daily. It was her encouragement and belief in Philip's potential that propelled him to take responsibility for making his dream become a reality.

Roberta referred Philip to the *disABILITY*

Resource Lab of Montgomery, a component of the Montgomery Therapeutic Recreation Center. The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services provided free consultation which resulted in allowing Philip actually to try some of the technology. Subsequently, Philip applied for funds from the IDTF Recreation Assistance Fund for a computer with technology that would meet his needs.

* * *

Raymond Cox

Because of the assistance he received through the his local AHIF resource coordinator, Raymond Cox no longer worries about his safety.

With spinal cord injuries, the loss of his left hand and left eye as the result of an automobile crash in 1995, the 41-year old man was unable to get out of bed. Since he lives alone, it was necessary, Raymond thought, to leave his door unlocked at all times so that

visitors and service providers could come and go. One evening someone came in and stole Raymond's television and stereo. He could do absolutely nothing to stop the thief!

Raymond requested services from Keith Skelton, the AHIF Montgomery area resource coordinator. He needed an electric door strike with which he could unlock and lock his door from bed. Keith assisted Raymond in researching technology that was necessary to meet his goal of safety. Not only did they conclude

Service Components

that a door strike was needed, but that a surveillance camera and intercom would also be helpful so that Raymond could determine who he was letting enter his home.

After experiencing difficulty finding a contractor to do this small job, Keith contacted Arthur Lindsay, a client with a spinal cord injury who was a contractor. Arthur was pleased to take on the job.

Skelton helped Raymond apply for funding for the technology from the Medical Assistance Fund. The door strike, the camera and intercom were successfully installed, and now Raymond lives safely and independently, with the help of technology purchased through the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund.

* * *

Jane Grubbs

On the evening of April 8, 1998, Jane Grubbs and her husband stepped into their bathtub to wait out the deadly tornado that was about to rip through their Birmingham community. Seconds later they found themselves blown more than 300 feet away from what used to be their home. Jane was slammed into a tree. She sustained a traumatic brain injury. During the following 29 days she was in a coma, no one expected her to live.

Jane and her husband lost their home and all their possessions. These would eventually be replaced, but life for this 42-year-old legal secretary and her family will never be the same. Due to the disabilities caused by her brain injury, Jane is still going through intensive rehabilitation. She

experiences short term memory loss and weakness in her right side. She walks with the assistance of a walker. Sometime when it rains and a storm threatens, anxiety and fear overcome her. She requires constant supervision by her daughter so that her husband can work.

In August the Red Cross referred Jane to the Birmingham area resource coordinator Jean Jones who reassured the family that assistance through the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund would be available. Jane and her husband attended the local Alabama Head Injury Support Group and met others who could relate to Jane's injury.

As months passed, Jane was evaluated for vision deficits caused by her brain injury. She needed new glasses which could not be provided by Medicare, nor insurance. Through the AHIF's Medical Assistance Fund (funded by the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund), glasses were provided.

Since Jean represented the Alabama Head Injury Foundation as a member of the Community Tornado Unmet Needs Committee, she presented the needs of this family, including furniture that was destroyed in the disaster. A new bedroom set, refrigerator and washer/dryer were obtained with funding contributed by the community.

Soon the Grubbs will move into a new home. Jean has referred Jane to the ADRS State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Program. The local *Independent Living specialist* will provide services to assist Jane in living as independently as possible.

The Grubbs family had much to deal with after the tornado—the loss of property, the trauma, Jane's traumatic brain injury, dislocation and extraordinary financial strain. The coordination of resources and emotional support provided by the resource coordinator helped Jane and her family in their initial transition and will continue in the years to come.

* * *

Jazarus Ingram

Traumatic Brain Injury can occur early in life as it did for this youngster. Jazarus was just an infant when an automobile crash left him with a TBI which impaired the function of his right arm and leg. Almost three years later the doctor recommended intensive physical and occupational therapy. Jazarus' mother was overwhelmed by the expense of the therapy and the prospect of finding pediatric therapists in the rural area where they lived.

For Jazarus, acquiring the necessary therapies meant a greater chance of regaining the use of his right hand. His doctor felt there was a limited window of opportunity for this to happen. The therapy was a prerequisite for medical treatments which may enable him to better operate his right hand.

AHIF Resource Coordinator Roberta Jackel worked with the boy's mother to ensure that "Jaz" received the necessary therapy. After many phone calls and inquiries, arrangements were made. The appropriate therapists were located and Medical Assistance funds were utilized to assist in payment for the therapy. A key component of this success was coopera-

Service Components

tion between the Alabama Head Injury Foundation and Children's Rehabilitation Service, which exemplifies the benefits of a community-support system for people with TBI or SCI.

* * *

AHIF Family Helpline 800-433-8002

The Alabama Family Helpline, established through a federal grant to the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, assists people with head or spinal cord injury and their families in getting the answers they need. A part-time, licensed social worker provides immediate information through the toll-free Helpline. The Family Helpline also offers a comprehensive library of material, including audio and video tapes and articles on neurotrauma.



Alabama Head Injury Foundation Community Support Network Family Resource Coordinators

Sandra B. Koplon **Director of Family Services**

3600 8th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35222-3223
(205) 328-3505
Fax: (205) 328-2479

Anniston/Gadsden **Larry R. Revoir, MSW**

P.O. Box 7158 (mailing address)
3424 Rainbow Parkway
Rainbow City, AL 35906
Ph/Fax: (256) 413-0810
Counties Served: DeKalb, Etowah,
Cherokee, Calhoun, Talladega,
Cleburne

Auburn **Roberta Jackel**

305 East Thach Avenue
Auburn, AL 36830
Ph: (334) 821-8221
Fax: (334) 826-2111
Counties Served: Clay, Randolph,
Coosa, Tallapoosa, Chambers, Lee,
Russell

Birmingham **Jean Jones**

3600 8th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35222-3223
Ph: (205) 328-3505
Fax: (205) 328-2479
Counties Served: Jefferson, Blount,
St. Clair, Walker

Dothan **Terrie Causey**

119 East Selma Street, Suite 2
Dothan, AL 36301
Ph/Fax: (334) 702-0444
Counties Served: Barbour, Covington,
Coffee, Dale, Henry, Geneva, Houston

Huntsville **Sandy Kiplinger**

P.O. Box 8312
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808
Ph/Fax: (256) 498-1023
Counties Served: Limestone, Madison,
Jackson, Morgan, Marshall, Cullman
(If calling from Huntsville area, dial
(256) 895-9070 and leave a message)

Mobile **Brenda Phillips**

P.O. Box 13246
Eight Mile, AL 36663-0246
Ph/Fax: (334) 456-6188
Counties Served: Mobile, Baldwin,
Escambia, Washington

Montgomery **Keith E. Skelton**

400 Eastern Boulevard, Suite 206
Montgomery, AL 36117
Ph/Fax: (334) 260-8767
Counties Served: Bullock,
Montgomery, Lowndes, Chilton,
Autauga, Elmore, Macon,
Butler, Crenshaw, Pike

Selma **Nancy Harrison**

Rt. 1, Box 19A
Marion, AL 36756
Ph/Fax: (334) 683-8909
Counties Served: Sumter, Perry, Marengo,
Dallas, Choctaw, Clarke, Wilcox, Monroe,
Conecuh, Greene, Hale

Shoals **Jennifer S. Adams**

Keystone Executive Centre
205 S. Seminary Street, Suite 107
Florence, AL 35630
Ph: (256) 740-8299
Fax: (256) 740-8203
Counties Served: Lauderdale, Colbert,
Lawrence, Franklin, Marion,
Winston

Tuscaloosa **Lucia Parsons**

621 22nd Avenue, Suite A
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Ph/Fax: (205) 345-5363
Counties Served: Lamar, Fayette,
Shelby, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Bibb

Service Components

Employment opportunities through

IDTF Extended Support

The primary method of serving individuals who need intensive supported employment services in order to perform work is through the utilization of a job coach who goes to the work site with the consumer and provides direct training on real job tasks.

Job coach funding is available through the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, but federal law restricts the department to a maximum of 18 months of on-site job coaching; therefore, a state or local source of funding for the provision of extended services is vital to ensure employment success. The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund provides that source of funding.

ADRS and IDTF work together to create a seamless array of services that have assisted numerous Alabamians in returning to employment. One such Alabamian who benefited from this service system is Susan Page.

"In January 1992 I was in a car accident and sustained a traumatic head injury. I was in real estate sales, active in community charities, was a member at a health club where I worked out three or four times a week, and played golf on a regular basis. After making efforts on my own to cope in day-to-day living, recreational and social activities, and in the workplace with the changes this brought about, I sought the advice of...a psychologist...I also had decided I needed a career change, but I lacked skills in computers."

Susan was referred to ADRS where she was provided with computer training and assistance in a job search. She was recommended for an additional six weeks of training offered through a program at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Facility. The *Orientation to Banking Careers* was sponsored by eight local banks. They provide people with disabilities an introduction to

the many areas of banking.

"Of utmost importance," Susan said, "was the fact that this group (people with disabilities) was granted the opportunity to meet leaders in the industry with available jobs. This program literally opened the door of opportunity for us or gave us the gentle nudge needed. I finished the banking program November 13, 1997, was offered a job on November 21, and began working on December 1."

Susan is now an administrative assistant at SouthTrust Bank.



Abby Gross (left), human resource director for SouthTrust Bank, and Scotty Page (right), human resource director at New South Federal—Bank Training Staff share Susan's pride in displaying the certificate she received for completion of the ADRS *Orientation to Banking Careers* program.

During the training and transition process, Susan realized through the assistance of a neuropsychologist, rehabilitation counselor and job coach that she had significant changes in her memory and that these changes would create significant challenges for her in learning new information. At the same time she realized that there were job coaching services available through ADRS and subsequently the Impaired Driver's Trust Fund that would assist her in meeting these challenges.

The ADRS job coach assisted Susan in learning information associated with her new job, reinforced her retention of information, oriented her to the physical layout of the building, and assisted her with learning coworkers' names and absorbing work routines and procedures. This process, according to Susan, required complete and total commitment on her part.

Once Susan had mastered her job tasks and thus gained the skills needed to be an effective

Service Components

administrative assistant, the ADRS job coach transitioned Susan's support to the IDTF-sponsored job coach who continued the support. The IDTF job coach serves as a liaison between Susan, her coworkers and supervisor.

"Brenda (the IDTF job coach) checks with me and my manager periodically to assure that things are going smoothly," Susan said, "and, if not, what modifications might need to be made. It keeps the door of communication open...Even when I hear it second hand through Brenda, it means a lot to me to know that he (her manager) has expressed that he is pleased with my work." This support will be available for Susan as long as she needs it.

"1998 has really been a wonderful year for me. It has brought many challenges and happiness. So very many people and agencies have had a part in my little successes. I could never, ever thank them enough."

* * *

Personnel assistance: family education and support service through

State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Program

During Fiscal Year '98 special funding from the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund allowed 105 individuals to receive the medical and attendant care services they required in order to avoid institutionalization and/or hospitalization. Teams of specially trained counselors and nurses from the State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Service (formerly Homebound Service) coordinated this cost-effective, community-based care which is designed to provide support the family needs to maintain as independent a life-style as possible following neurotrauma. Without this care, many of these individuals and their families would be forced to turn to expensive and restrictive alternatives for care. Personal attendant care is provided to assist the consumer with activities of daily living, and financial assistance is given for purchase of medication and medical supplies related to the medical diagnosis. Other durable medical equipment and assistive devices are considered to promote independent living or enhance the quality of life.

Being able to provide the care needed at the time it is needed is crucial, and the funds provided through the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund have assisted Family Education and Support Services (FESS) in eliminating waiting lists for services.

As Forrest Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you will get!" This is especially true in the life of Scott Bradford.

In 1988 Scott was a typical 32-year-old man—married with a five-year-old daughter, employed full-time, and living life to its fullest. Then in a split second on August 18, life as he knew it was over.

After the Ford Granada in which Scott was a passenger flipped one last time and came to a rest, reality became quite apparent. Scott's friends sustained only minor injuries. Scott, however, (with not a scratch on his body), was left with C5-6 incomplete quadriplegia. He could not move!

Scott was hospitalized for one month at Flowers Hospital in Dothan and then spent three months at Spain Rehabilitation in Birmingham. When he returned home in December, things were grim. Although thankful to be alive to see his daughter grow up, Scott's movement was very limited and slow to return. This was frustrating. He

Service Components

required assistance in performing all activities of daily living. Things he had always taken for granted, such as feeding himself, were now major tasks.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services' FESS Program received a referral on Scott before his discharge home and was prepared to begin services upon his arrival back to Dothan. Through FESS he received a personal care attendant to assist with activities of daily living and a medicine/medical supply account to assist with the exorbitant cost of necessary items required to maintain his health and

safety. Environmental modifications to his home—including widening doors, building a ramp, and modifying his bathroom—were completed to accommodate Scott. FESS also assisted with the portion of the cost that Scott's private insurance policy did not cover for assistive technology.

Scott is still an active participant in the FESS program today. He continues to reside in Dothan and has sole custody of his 15 year-old daughter. FESS made it possible for Scott to remain in the community, participate in his child's life, and not "go broke" (as he says) living day to

day. FESS assisted Scott in living independently in his home and achieving his maximum potential. He has hopes of becoming active in some capacity in counseling others with similar injuries. An *independent living specialist* will assist Scott with these plans.

Life does not always turn out as one plans, and we do not always get the chocolate we would have chosen if we had the opportunity to peek inside the box. However, Scott's attitude is one of gratefulness. "I am glad Homebound (SAIL) was there when times were rough," he said.



Recreational Activities

*I*t is important that people facing a long, hard recovery from serious head or spinal cord injury experience success. One setting that gives them challenges to overcome and the opportunity to enjoy recreational activities in the company of others with similar disabilities is *camp*. During the Fiscal Year '98 spring, fall and summer camps, some 219 consumers, family members, friends and volunteers participated in adventure-learning courses, fishing, swimming, tennis and other recreational activities at Camp ASCCA (Alabama's Special Camp for Children and Adults) in Jacksons Gap, Alabama.

In September, Lakeshore Foundation, a nonprofit foundation providing opportunities for people with physical disabilities to live healthy, active lifestyles and participate fully in the life of their community, hosted its 10th annual Outdoor Adventure Weekend Camp at Camp ASCCA.

Weekend activities included water skiing, scuba experiences, fishing, jet skiing, archery, skeet and trap shooting, indoor air rifle shooting, all terrain vehicle rides, and shooting sports. The weekend was sponsored in part by the Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund.

In conjunction with Adventure Weekend, Disabled Sportsmen and Alexander City Bass Club cosponsored the Adventure Weekend Bass Tournament. Alexander City Bass Club provided boats and guides for the one-day tournament. Competition was based on B.A.S.S. tournament rules and allowed individuals with disabilities to compete with their able-bodied peers.

Dave Baskin, manager of the National Rifle Association's Disabled Shooting Services, and Tabatha Kirke, representative from Bushnell Sports Optics Worldwide, conducted the Dixie Disabled

Shooting Sports Championships—a new component of Lakeshore Foundation's Adventure Weekend—which allowed men and women with disabilities to compete with able-bodied contestants in a 22-match rifle competition. Baskin and Kirke, both U.S. Disabled Shooting Team coaches, gave marksmanship tips and assisted participants in sharpening their shooting skills.



IDTF STATS for FY '98

Information from the Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Resource Coordination

Clients Served.....889

| | | |
|------------|------------|----------------|
| <u>TBI</u> | <u>SCI</u> | <u>TBI/SCI</u> |
| 555 | 295 | 39 |

Services Provided

| <u>Service Category</u> | <u>Hours of Service Provided</u> |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Intake & Casework _____ | 1,165 |
| Resource Identification & Referrals _____ | 6,081 |
| Education _____ | 516 |
| Emotional Support _____ | 835 |
| Housing _____ | 946 |
| Financial Assistance _____ | 922 |
| Advocacy _____ | 450 |
| Other Services _____ | 179 |
| Total..... | 11,094 |

Awareness and Education

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Group Events Hosted _____ | 215, with attendance of _____ | 2,818 |
| Presentations _____ | 63, with attendance of _____ | 8,286 |
| Community Meetings Attended ____ | 213 | |

Local Resources Generated.....\$136,821

(for clients's use such as utilities, food, rent, clothing, transportation)

Additionally, an average of \$13,680 was generated for individual clients through local community resources.

On the average, each of the 10 resource coordinators served 89 clients and averaged 12 1/2 hours of service per client. Some 55% of service hours were spent identifying resources for clients/families.

Helpline (Information & Resources)

| Callers.....1,142 | | | TBI/SCI Resource Library |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Professionals</u> | <u>Consumers/Family</u> | <u>Others</u> | 2,025 Articles Catalogued |
| 413 | 648 | 81 | 442 Books/Magazines |
| | | | 110 Video Tapes |
| | | | 44 Audio Tapes |

Categories of Information Provided and Requests for Each

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| TBI, General _____ | 382 | Statistics _____ | 21 |
| SCI, General _____ | 109 | Brain Injury Associations _____ | 59 |
| Legal _____ | 57 | Prevention/Safety _____ | 15 |
| Education _____ | 121 | AHIF Services _____ | 795 |
| Recreation _____ | 111 | Transportation _____ | 39 |
| Substance Abuse _____ | 30 | Equipment _____ | 71 |
| Behavioral _____ | 161 | Employment _____ | 32 |
| Coma _____ | 33 | Emotional Support _____ | 232 |
| Pediatric _____ | 52 | Camp Programs _____ | 116 |
| Housing _____ | 182 | Accessibility _____ | 43 |
| Financial _____ | 276 | Other _____ | 133 |

Total Information Requests.....3,070

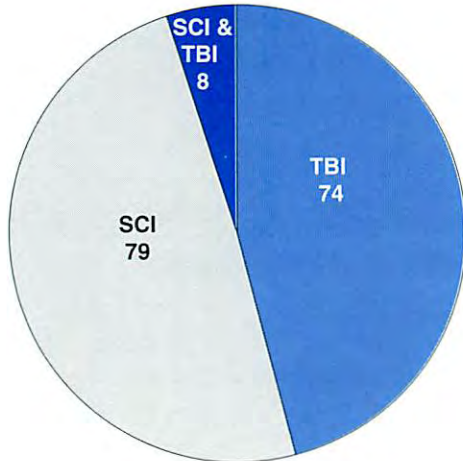
Referrals

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|-----|
| Hospital/Rehab Facilities _____ | 39 | AL Dept. of Mental Health/MR _____ | 34 |
| Independent Living Centers _____ | 27 | Social Security Admin. _____ | 55 |
| ADRS/ICBM Program _____ | 31 | Legal Resources _____ | 29 |
| ADRS/Vocational Rehab _____ | 62 | Medical Resources _____ | 53 |
| ADRS/Children's Rehab _____ | 46 | Individual & Family Support _____ | 91 |
| ADRS/SAIL _____ | 53 | Local Community Agencies _____ | 269 |
| ADRS/Other _____ | 73 | Support Groups _____ | 264 |
| AL Dept. of Human Resources _____ | 61 | Resource Coordinators _____ | 454 |
| AL Dept. of Public Health _____ | 39 | Other _____ | 148 |
| Educational Resources _____ | 22 | | |

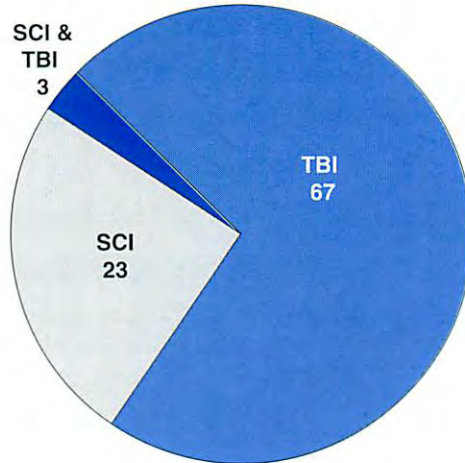
Total Referrals.....1,850

Case Funds

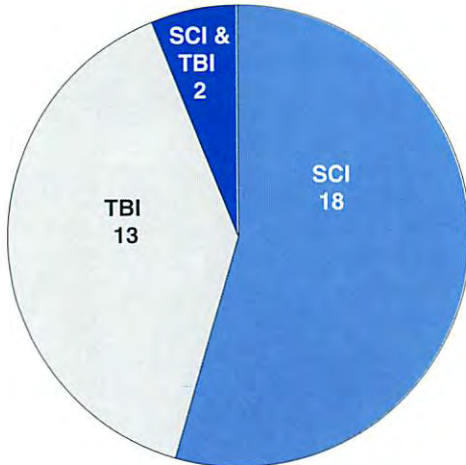
Medical Assistance—\$101,457.77
Clients Receiving Case Funds
Total: 161



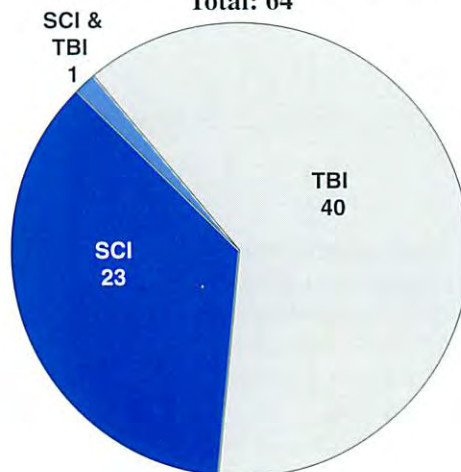
Respite Care—\$55,729.61
Respite Hours Provided—4,431
Total: 93



Housing Assistance—\$382,870.26
Total: 33



Recreation Funding—\$44,019.23
Total: 64



Technical Assistance Center (TAC)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Telephone/Office Consultations | 109 |
| Inservice Presentations | 22 |
| Professionals Served | 677 |

Service Recipients: Mental Health workers, therapists, nurses, teachers, home health aides, case managers, social workers, probation officers

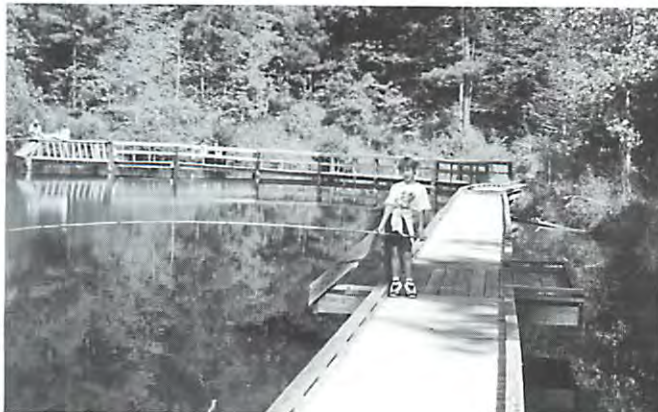
Camp

People Served at Camp.....219



| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Spring Adult Camp: | |
| Consumers | 56 |
| Family/Friends | 27 |
| Volunteers | <u>25</u> |
| | 108 |

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Summer Camp: | |
| Consumers | 41 |
| Family/Friends | 14 |
| Volunteers | <u>15</u> |
| | 70 |



| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Fall Pediatric Camp: | |
| Consumers | 11 |
| Family/Friends | 24 |
| Volunteers | <u>6</u> |
| | 41 |

Advisory Board Members

Ralph R. Norman III, Chair
Alabama Insurance Department

Lamona H. Lucas
Alabama Head Injury Task Force

Sandra Nicholson, Vice Chair
Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Senator Doug Ghee
Alabama State Senate

Representative Bill Fuller
Alabama House of Representatives

P. Caudill Miller, M.D.
Medical Association of Alabama

Graham Sisson
The Governor's Office

Jack Hataway, M.D.
Department of Public Health

Sylvester Smith
Department of Human Resources

Terry Longest
Division of Special Education
Department of Education

Joan Hannah, Ed.D.
Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

O'Neill Pollingue
Department of Mental Health/Mental
Retardation

Russ Fine, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.
UAB Injury Control Research Center

Terrance Brown
The Alabama Hospital Association

Stann Garris
Epilepsy Foundation of North & Central
Alabama

Mike Murphy
Alabama Medicaid Agency

Tim Cain
Alabama Coalition of Citizens Health
Disabilities

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ Traumatic Brain Injury is the leading killer and cause of disability in children and young adults.

- ❖ Each year some 10,070 Alabamians sustain a traumatic brain injury. This translates to 27 brain injuries per day.

- ❖ First year direct cost projections for caring for survivors with severe brain injury will exceed \$63 million. This cost does not include indirect costs such as lost wages, lost opportunities, etc.

- ❖ Approximately 87 percent of Alabamians with serious head injuries are on some form of public assistance 10 years after their injury.

TBI

SCI

- ❖ Approximately 150 Alabamians sustain spinal cord injuries each year as a result of motor vehicle crashes, gunshot wounds, falls and sports activities. Half of these injuries are caused by vehicle crashes.

- ❖ 54 percent of all motor vehicle-related spinal cord injuries result in paralysis in arms and legs (quadriplegia); 46 percent result in paralysis in lower extremities (paraplegia).

- ❖ Acute care and rehabilitation costs for Alabamians with vehicle crash-related injuries amount to some \$11 million per year.

**Alabama Department of
Rehabilitation Services**

**Lamona H. Lucas
Commissioner**

**2129 East South Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36116-2455**

(334) 281-8780

1-800-441-7607

Fax: (334) 281-1973

www.rehab.state.al.us